

# SAFETY AND ADVICE

The Caravaca Festivals are held between 30<sup>th</sup> April and 5<sup>th</sup> May. Streets are full of visitors, locals and horses. All is happiness and rejoicing... but have you ever considered the risks that this may mean? Civil Protection and the local government of Caravaca de la Cruz implement a special safety plan for these days.

Let us give you some advice to enjoy our festivals without taking risks:

## Crowds

Since the main streets where the celebrations take place may get too busy, the local government establishes a series of evacuation routes. These routes will be duly marked and can be checked with any Civil Protection member.

## Horses and Tours

The Horse celebrations are held on 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> May. Even though horses are very gentle animals and they are trained to be among people, they may display unexpected behaviours so please take the following advice:

- Under no circumstances should you hit any of the horses.
- ONLY approach a horse if the horsemen give you permission. You must always respect horsemen and obviously do not leap onto any horse.
- Do NOT cross the street in front of horses. Sometimes people think they have time to cross before the horse arrives but animals are quick so please take care.
- Be extremely cautious. It's better to be safe than sorry. It's OK to have fun but being with animals requires extra caution.

Particularly during races in the various locations, as well as the main race on 2<sup>nd</sup> May up near the castle:

- Do NOT stand still in the middle of the street when a horse is running. This may sound quite obvious however some people do not pay attention and get knocked down.
- Do NOT try to get "the best shot". The race is no place for that. You must focus 100% on the next horse.
- Be always kind and respectful to others. Good vibes and friendly rivalry must come first.
- The media must be duly accredited and be at a suitable location. They must NOT be in the middle of the street.

Last but not least: If you have drunk alcohol, please keep away from the horses. Alcohol and animals are not a good mix. Remember that courage is not recklessness, and above all respect the horsemen.

## Alcohol

Alcohol is not required during the Festivals of Caravaca. Nevertheless it is usual to enjoy these days with some drinks, wine or beer. Please heed the following advice:

- If you drink, do not drive. All of the festival activities are in the centre of Caravaca so there is no need to take the car. Leave it parked for a few days and go on foot.

- Be careful with horses and alcohol. They are a bad mix and it usually creates problems.
- Do not get into trouble. Alcohol may lead us to arguments and misunderstandings. It is not worth spoiling the festival like that.
- Wine stains on the clothes do not give a good impression. There is no formal rule about this but it is always best to keep your shirt clean.

In summary, common sense must prevail over alcohol. Excess is ALWAYS harmful and especially on this occasion. Enjoy yourself through other means: music, dance, colours, people, etc. You will have better memories of the Caravaca Festivals.

### Children Getting Lost

It is quite common for children to get lost amongst the crowd. The best way to avoid this is by always holding the child's hand. In any case it is advisable for the child to wear an identity bracelet or some sort of document including at least one contact telephone number. You can obtain an identity bracelet at the Tourist Info Point located in Plaza del Arco.

If a child gets lost it is important to keep calm and advise the nearest policeman or Civil Protection member. Make sure you provide an exact description: features and clothing. It is also essential to inform them when the child is found in order to stop the search.

Remind children that they must not cross the street during parades or races because they can get knocked down.

### High Temperatures

Most of the celebrations take place during the day at times where temperatures are high so it is recommended to keep hydrated by drinking plenty of water and isotonic drinks. If you are feeling unwell you should get to a safe location and inform the emergency services.

*If you wish to seek more advice on car park, stands and parades or other subjects please check [www.caravacaenfiestas.com/consejos](http://www.caravacaenfiestas.com/consejos) (in Spanish)*